Perishing of foodgrains and vegetables due to shortage of cold storages

†2055. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of foodgrains, pulses and vegetables etc. that perishes in transit before reaching to consumer from the field of farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 30 per cent of foods and vegetables go waste due to shortage of cold stores;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of total wastage from 15 to 30 per cent go wastes due to weeds and improper pesticides;

(d) if so, whether Government would take any step to provide sufficient information and training to farmers in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) On wastage of foodgrains and vegetables due to various factors, only sporadic survey/study data is available. Government of India constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.C. Panse, the then member of Planning Commission for assessment of Post harvest losses in foodgrains. As per Panse Committee report (1966), total post harvest losses in foodgrains have been assessed as 9.33% out of which losses during transportation were estimated as 0.15%.

The percentage of foodgrains, pulses losses on an average ranges from 8 to 10 per cent and 10 to 30 per cent in respect of vegetables. The number of cold storages has increased from 4541 (December 2003) to 5316 (December, 2007) which helps to reduce wastage of food and vegetables.

(d) to (e) Government is promoting technology developed by Central Institute of Post Harvest "Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) Ludhiana and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Post Harvest Management which are being demonstrated to farmers. Awareness and training programme on Post harvest management is also organized under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission for vegetables and also by National Horticulture Board an apex organization under Ministry of Agriculture.

Integrated policy for import of wheat and edible oils

2056.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that need for formulating an integrated policy on importing wheat and edible oil is being felt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and